



To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

February 16, 2016

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SUBJECT: HEMPHILL LAMAR CONNECTOR

This Informal Report provides a summary of recent progress on an opportunity to partner with the North Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and possibly Tarrant County to acquire the required funding to complete the Hemphill Lamar Connector project and an outline of actions needed to update project cost estimates.

On February 9, 2016, representatives from the NCTCOG, TxDOT and the City of Fort Worth held a meeting to discuss potential funding sources that can be joined with the City's existing funding to address the current shortfall to complete the project. Funding identified as options to add to existing City funds includes available Regional Transportation Council funding, matching state funds through TxDOT and potential funding from Tarrant County. Meeting participants concluded that in order to move forward, additional field investigation is necessary to resolve key risk factors that are contributing to the current elevated project cost estimate. These factors include potential soil contamination, underground utility relocations and construction cost inflation.

In order to update these costs, staff recommends that the City resume the services of McCarthy Building Companies, the Construction Manager at Risk for the project, to perform certain professional services. This effort will include three tasks as outlined below.

Geotechnical Investigation: further geotechnical investigation to study soil conditions within the proposed roadway and railroad right of ways ROW and determine the extent of contamination within the proposed work zone. Access to the railroad ROW is now being made available.

Subsurface Utility Engineering: investigation of existing utilities and fiber optic cables within the railroad ROW, including exploratory excavation and survey work.

Revised Project Budget: review the design, geotechnical and utility information and prepare a revised total project cost estimate based on current labor and material prices and trends in construction price inflation.

Work will be dependent upon effective coordination with Union Pacific Railroad to complete the on-site investigations and data collection processes, which will be coordinated with NCTCOG.

City staff will place an agenda item for Council consideration on March 1, 2016 to approve Amendment No. 2 to the existing professional services agreement with McCarthy Building Companies to perform the work outlined above. Please contact Todd Blomstrom, TPW Assistant Director, at 817-392-2252 with any questions regarding the current project status or proposed work plan.

David Cooke
City Manager